

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6653

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

OVIP (WYATT, WENDELL A., REP)

SUBJECT: CODEL WYATT'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT

1. CODEL WYATT MET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT IN ALEXANDRIA (MAMURA) AUG 27. AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED AND INTRODUCED CODEL TO PRESIDENT. MEETING WAS RELAXED AND INFORMAL AND LASTED ABOUT A HALF HOUR. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES CONVERSATION.

2. AFTER PRESIDENTIAL WELCOME, CODEL RECALLED HE HAD MET WITH THE SECRETARY BEFORE LEAVING ON HIS TRIP AND HAD BEEN BRIEFED. CODEL ENDORSED POLICY OF RAPPROACHEMENT WITH ARAB WORLD AND ESPECIALLY WITH EGYPT. PRESIDENT COMMENTED THAT SUCH A RAPPROCHEMENT IS IN BOTH US AND ARAB INTERESTS. CODEL AGREED AND ADDED IT IS ALSO IN INTEREST OF WORLD PEACE. HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD LONG BELIEVED ME TO BE A MORE DANGEROUS SITUATION THAN EVEN VIETNAM. THE PRESIDENT READILY AGREED.

3. CODEL NOTED ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST FOR AID FOR EGYPT. OBSERVING HE HAD NEVER VOTED FOR FOREIGN AID BEFORE, HE SAID HE INTENDED TO DO SO THIS TIME IN ORDER TO SUPPORT EGYPT. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION. CODEL SAID HE UNDERSTANDS PRESIDENT FORD ALSO INTENDS
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TO URGE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS TO SUPPORT AID FOR EGYPT.

4. THIS PROMPTED PRESIDENT SADAT TO MENTION HIS GRATIFICATION AT PRESIDENT FORD'S REAFFIRMATION OF US POLICY WITH RESPECT TO THE MIDDLE EAST. CODEL OBSERVED HIGH REGARD CONGRESS HAS FOR PRESIDENT FORD AS EVIDENCED BY OVATION HE RECEIVED WHEN APPEARING THERE. SADAT NOTED FAHMY HAD BEEN PRESENT ON THAT OCCASION AND HAD DESCRIBED IT TO HIM. (THIS GAVE ME CHANCE TO OFFER PRESIDENT SADAT THE RECENTLY ARRIVED USIA FILMS ON PRESIDENT FORD, WHICH SADAT INDICATED KEEN INTEREST IN SEEING.)

5. THE PRESIDENT SPOKE OF EGYPT'S NEED FOR US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE RECALLED THAT HE IS NOW EXPOSED. THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT PROVIDED ANYTHING SINCE OCTOBER. HIS CRITICS IN THE ARAB WORLD AND ELSEWHERE ARE WATCHING. THE SOVIETS ARE SEEKING TO "BARGAIN" WITH HIM TO RESUME AID IN EXCHANGE FOR WEAKENING HIS RELATIONS WITH US. SADAT STRESSED HIS POLICY IS SETTLED. NO MATTER WHAT COMES OUT OF US ASSISTANCE, NOTHING WILL CHANGE HIS VIEW THAT EGYPT SHOULD HAVE BETTER RELATIONS WITH US.

6. CODEL RECALLED THAT HE HAD LONG BEEN A SUPPORTER OF ISRAEL, LARGELY BECAUSE HE OPPOSED ARAB REJECTION OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. SINCE THIS WAS NO LONGER SO, CODEL OPINED IT WAS NOW TIME FOR ISRAEL TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. THE PRESIDENT AGREED. CODEL ASKED FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW ON HOW ISRAEL MIGHT BE ASSURED OF SECURITY IF PEACE COMES. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO A WRITTEN US GUARANTEE BEING GIVEN TO ISRAEL, PROVIDED EGYPT IS GIVEN A SIMILAR GUARANTEE.

7. CODEL NEXT INQUIRED ABOUT PRESIDENT'S VIEW ON A POSSIBLE PALESTINIAN STATE. THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY. SUCH A STATE SHOULD COMPRISE THE WEST BANK AND GAZA WITH A CORRIDOR CONNECTING THE TWO. HE HAD OBTAINED KING HUSSEIN'S AGREEMENT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO JORDANIAN TROOPS IN THE WEST BANK. SHOULD HUSSEIN TRY TO RENEGE ON THAT COMMITMENT, EGYPT WILL "EXPOSE" HIM. ANY AREAS RELINQUISHED BY THE ISRAELIS SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED BY THE UN FOR A FEW YEARS. THEREAFTER, CONFIDENTIAL

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THEY COULD BE TURNED OVER TO PALESTINIAN ADMINISTRATION.

8. CODEL ALSO ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT FOR JERUSALEM. THIS, THE PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED, WILL BE DIFFICULT. IT SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THE END. NO ARAB LEADER, HE STRESSED, COULD AGREE THAT "ARAB JERUSALEM" REMAIN UNDER ISRAEL.

9. COMMENT: AFTERWARD CODEL COMMENTED ON PRESIDENT'S
CANDOR AND SINCERITY. ALTHOUGH MEETING WAS RELATIVELY
BRIEF, THE PRESIDENT CAME OVER VERY POSITIVELY IN THE
MEETING.
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